

Executive Committee

Meeting No.	20	Contact	Patsy Morris, Committee Administrator
Meeting Date	Monday, May 5, 2008	Phone	416-392-9151
Start Time	9:30 AM	E-mail	pmorris@toronto.ca
Location	Committee Room 1, City Hall		

Executive Committee		
Mayor David Miller (Chair) Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone (Vice-Chair) Councillor Shelley Carroll Councillor Janet Davis Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker	Councillor Paula Fletcher Councillor Norm Kelly Councillor Gloria Lindsay Luby Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti	Councillor Pam McConnell Councillor Joe Mihevc Councillor Howard Moscoe Councillor Kyle Rae

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Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.**Confirmation of Minutes – March 25, 2008 and April 7, 2008**

Speakers/Presentations - A complete list will be distributed at the meeting.

Communications/Reports

EX20.17	ACTION			
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Request of the Province of Ontario to Declare Transit Service in Toronto an Essential Service

(October 6, 2006) Member Motion from Councillor Lindsay Luby and Councillor Palacio

Recommendation

That as an urgent matter of public health and safety, Toronto City Council request that the provincial government introduce legislation deeming public transit service in the City of Toronto an essential service.

Summary

City Council on September 25, 26 and 27, 2006, referred the following Member Motion by Councillor Palacio, seconded by Councillor Lindsay Luby to the Executive Committee:

“WHEREAS the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) should seek to have transit service in Toronto declared an essential service; and

WHEREAS as required under the Act for the declaration of an essential service, a stoppage in TTC service does create a ‘danger to life, health or safety’ and ‘serious environmental damage’; and

WHEREAS the Toronto Transit Commission carries over 1.3 million passengers daily, including 80 percent of transit trips in the Greater Toronto Area, and is the hub of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) inter-regional transit network; and

WHEREAS one subway line in Toronto takes 53,000 automobiles per hour off the road during rush hour, and the TTC carries the equivalent of 365 million automotive trips annually, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 8 megatonnes per year; and

WHEREAS hundreds of thousands of Torontonians rely on the TTC to get to work, to school and to conduct their lives each day, and the City of Toronto is simply not designed to function without an operating public transit system; and

WHEREAS Wheeltrans is the only means of transportation for many of Toronto's elderly and physically disadvantaged residents; and

WHEREAS it is estimated that any transit stoppage costs the City of Toronto economy upwards of \$10 million in lost economic activity and excessive inconvenience for hundreds of thousands of Torontonians; and

WHEREAS the reliability of transit service has consistently been cited as the primary factor in a potential rider's decision whether or not to take the TTC, which any type of work stoppage completely undermines; and

WHEREAS there was a crippling two-day TTC strike in 1999, and an eight day strike in 1991, and further labour disruptions have been threatened in 2006; and

WHEREAS other essential services, nonetheless, have a very strong bargaining position and typically secure very favourable agreements through arbitration and mediation; and

WHEREAS Toronto is the only municipality that has a public transit service of such magnitude which entails significant ramifications for the public;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT as an urgent matter of public health and safety, Toronto City Council request that the provincial government introduce legislation deeming public transit service in the City of Toronto an essential service.” (Note: The foregoing Member Motion was previously noted and filed by the Executive Committee at its meeting held on January 15, 2007).

Communications

(October 6, 2006) Member Motion from Councillor Lindsay Luby and Councillor Palacio (EX.New)
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/ex/comm/communicationfile-7015.pdf>)

(Note: The foregoing Member Motion was previously noted and filed by the Executive Committee at its meeting held on January 15, 2007)

EX20.17a Declaring the TTC an Essential Service

(April 29, 2008) Member Motion from Councillor Palacio and Councillor Jenkins

Recommendation

1. That in response to the Premier's comments made on April 18th, 2008, in which he said he would consider deeming transit an essential service if the City of Toronto asked, that City Council formally request the Provincial Government to designate transit in Toronto an essential service.

Summary

The chaos and disruption caused by a full-scale transit strike is comparable to that of any large natural disaster and has the potential to bring about severe social, economic and environmental repercussions for our City. This disaster however, is political in origin. It can and should be avoided.

City Council should express its strong desire that The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) have transit service in Toronto declared essential. This is an issue of highest importance to the residents of the City of Toronto on which strong leadership is expected from City Council from the public.

The Toronto Transit Commission carries over 1.3 Million passengers daily, including 80% of transit trips in the Greater Toronto Area and is the hub of the GTA inter-regional transit network. In fact, one subway line in Toronto takes 53,000 automobiles per hour off the road during rush hour, and the TTC carries the equivalent of 365 million automotive trips annually, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 8 megatonnes per year.

Hundreds of thousands of Torontonians rely on the TTC to get to work, school and conduct their lives each day, and the City of Toronto is simply not designed to function without an operating public transit system. Wheeltrans is the only means of transportation for many of Toronto's elderly and physically disadvantaged residents.

Furthermore, any transit stoppage costs the City of Toronto Millions of dollars in lost economic activity in addition to the excessive inconvenience for hundreds of thousands of residents. The reliability of Transit service has also consistently been cited as the primary factor in a potential rider's decision whether or not to take the TTC, which any type of work stoppage completely undermines.

As required under the Act for the declaration of an essential service, a stoppage in TTC service does indeed create a "danger to life, health or safety" and "serious environmental damage". Other essential services have a very strong bargaining position and typically secure very favourable agreements through arbitration and mediation.

Communications

(April 29, 2008) Member Motion from Councillor Palacio and Councillor Jenkins (EX.New)
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/ex/comm/communicationfile-7016.pdf>)

EX20.17b Report on Declaring Transit an Essential Service in Toronto

(May 5, 2008) Letter from Councillor Palacio

Recommendations

1. That the report be prepared by the City Manager specifically include the following:
 - a. the approximate cost to the City of Toronto's economy per day of a full scale transit strike (prepared in consultation with Economic Development);
 - b. the estimated environmental damage caused by a full-scale transit strike (prepared in consultation with the Toronto Environment Office);
 - c. the expected impact on congestion and transportation services of a full-scale transit strike (prepared in consultation with Transportation Services);
 - d. the expected impact on congestion and transportation services of a full-scale transit strike (prepared in consultation in Toronto Fire, EMS and the TPS);
 - e. an analysis of the importance of reliability in the transit system, (prepared in consultation with the TTC);
 - f. the effect of a full-scale transit strike on the entire GTA transit network, including GO, Viva and Mississauga Transit;
 - g. an analysis of other major North-American Cities and whether their transit systems are essential services;
 - h. a comparison of the compensation for TTC drivers and maintenance workers to other major North American Cities and GTA municipalities;
 - i. an outline of the process and timelines by which Council and the Province could most quickly implement this legislation; and
2. that the report also specifically discuss the feasibility of:
 - a. declaring Wheeltrans, main routes or other specific parts of TTC operations, alone an essential service; and
 - b. including in potential Essential Service legislation a provision that compels any arbitrator to take into consideration TTC's limited ability to pay, as well as recognition that TTC revenues are derived primarily from the farebox and that it is in the public interest to keep transit affordable; and

3. that the report come back to the Executive no later than the September 2008 meeting as a deputation item.

Summary

Letter (May 5, 2008) from Councillor Palacio requesting that the recommendations be added to the soon to be forthcoming report regarding declaring transit an essential service in Toronto.

Communications

(May 5, 2008) e-mail from Councillor Palacio (EX.New)

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/ex/comm/communicationfile-7161.pdf>)